

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 9-20 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended without prejudice.

New Claims 21-31 have been added.

The Office requested a new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) because the original declaration was not executed in accordance with either 37 CFR 1.66 or 1.68. A new properly executed declaration that has been signed by all of the inventors is attached herein.

The Office objected to the drawings because reference character 24d is included in the drawings, but not mentioned in the specification. Paragraph [0035] in the specification has been amended to mention reference character 24d. No new matter has been added.

The drawings were also objected to because reference characters 24a and 24b have both been used to designate the first transmission element. The specification has been amended to correct this error.

The drawings were also objected to because reference characters 24b and 24c have both been used to designate the first transmission element. The specification has been amended to correct this error as well.

In light of the amendments to the specification, the Applicants now believe that the objections to the drawings are now addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.

The Office objected to claim 5, because it was not constructed as a proper Markush claim. Claim 5 has been amended now, as suggested by the examiner.

The Office rejected claims 1, 3-5, and 8-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fontenot (US 3,518,609). Claim 1 has been amended to include “wherein the insert is inserted into the inside diameter of a section of drill pipe and narrows a central bore of the drill pipe.” The Applicants submit that since Fontenot does not describe an insert being inserted into the inside diameter of a section of drill pipe that claim 1 is now allowable. Since claims 3-5 and 8 depend from now allowable base claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-5 and 8 are also allowable. Claim 9-20 have been canceled rendering their rejection moot.

The Office rejected claims 2, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fontenot in view of Hall (US 6,392,317). Claim 2 has been canceled and its limitations have been included in amended claim 1. Amended claim 1 also has the limitation that the insert narrows a central bore of the drill pipe, which is not disclosed in Fontenot or Hall. Fontenot teaches an insert is placed in a shoulder portion of a wall of the pipe (Col. 3, lines 35-43). Hall does not disclose an insert that narrows a central bore of drill pipe. Hall teaches that the rings are deployed within grooves within the internal shoulder or the counter bore portion of the box end tool joint and on the face of the pin end tool joint (Col. 4, lines 6-8). Hall only depicts harnesses deployed in grooves that do not narrow a central bore of the drill pipe. Hall discloses several embodiments in the blow-ups of Fig. 6, all of which depict harnesses in grooves or separated from a central bore via a liner 12. (Col. 5, lines 1-21).

Since the feature of narrowing the bore is not disclosed by either Fontenot or Hall, the Applicants believe that amended claim 1 is now allowable. Since claims 6 and 7 depend from

now allowable claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 7 are also now allowable.

New claims 21-31 have been added. Since new claims 21-25 depend from now allowable base claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 21-25 are also now allowable. New claim 21 has supported in paragraph [0049]; new claim 22 has support in paragraph [0056]; new claim 23 has support in paragraph [0058]; new claim 24 also has support in paragraph [0058]; and claim 25 has support in paragraph [0045]. No new matter has been added.

New independent claim 26 also includes that an insert is insertable into an inner diameter of the the pin end of a section of drill pipe and narrows a central bore of the drill pipe which is not disclosed by either Fontenot or Hall as discussed above. Since claims 27-31 depend from allowable base claim 26, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 27-31 are also allowable.

In view of the arguments and amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Claims 2 and 9-20 have been canceled and claims 21-31 have been added, making a net loss of two claims. Since there is no net increase in the total number of claims, nor in the number of independent claims, no additional fees are due for the new claims.

As authorized in the EFS submission under which this document is being filed, please charge Deposit Account No. 180584 in the amount totaling \$580. Of this amount, \$450 is for the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(a)(2) for a two month extension for time, and \$130 is for the fee required under 37 CFR 1.16(f) for a new oath/declaration. It is believed that there are no other fees due at this time. However, the commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which

may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact the undersigned at (281) 878-5658.

/Jeffery E. Daly/

Electronically signed by Jeffery E. Daly on 09/22/2006

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria VA 22313-1450 or by facsimile or electronic transmission to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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/Jeffery E. Daly/

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